

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.
"Reaching for Success one star at a Time"
September-October-November

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EXTRA.....EXTRA.....READ ALL ABOUT TSOC
21st Century Community Learning Center



Our 4th Annual Shop with a Cop 2011

Most people do not know what it would be like to not have warm winter clothing or at least one toy under the tree at Christmastime. Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. The Youth Leadership Council of Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st CCLC/ Harnett County's Police Athletic and Activities League located in Erwin, North Carolina is responsible for implementing one community service project per month. As a part of this effort, the members of the Council established a joint venture with the Harnett County's Sheriff's Department to make this holiday season brighter for local families for its 4th Annual Shop with a Cop Event.

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, the Youth Leadership Council, under the leadership of Lennie McKoy, Jr. and Brianna McLeod, sponsored "Shop with a Cop". The event

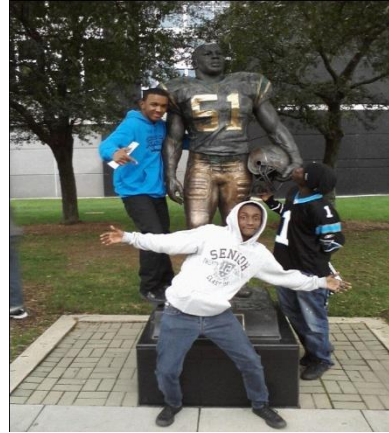
started with a program hosted by Think Smart at its site which consisted of a slideshow, arts and crafts for the children, and an informational session. Following a full course country buffet breakfast the youth and their families received a special visit from Santa Clause with a photo opt. After the breakfast, it was time to go shopping. The youth and their "Sheriff for the Day" headed to Walmart in Dunn while the youth were escorted in the Sheriff patrol cars. Eager youth lined up at the front of the Super Walmart store in Erwin awaiting to purchase their desired holiday gifts. Participants were provided a Walmart gift card. The program did not designate what kind of items the children could buy but kids were encouraged to get a balance of toys and clothing. Law enforcement officers, who volunteered their time for the event, shadowed the children as they shopped in the store. Representatives were Corporal Jeff Armstrong, Deputy Debbie Hardison, Deputy Anthony Stewart, Detective Brad Abate, Deputy Dominic Alvarado, Deputy Paul Stewart, Deputy Betty Ellis, Corporal Charles Peele, Sergeant Ronal Lackey, and Sergeant Aaron Meredith.

“This event enabled the Officers to share a little Christmas cheer; as well as, get to know some of the most energetic citizens of the community. The positive interaction between the Officers and youth is sure to last a lifetime.” stated Nell Williams, Harnett County PAL’s Program Director and Event Coordinator. “We would like to thank Harnett County’s Sheriff Department, Sherriff Larry Rollins, Mayor Patsy Carson of Erwin, Vicki Johnson-Chief Public Affairs/Protocol at Pope Air Force Base, 4-H of Harnett County, Kevin Gainey (Assistant Manager for Walmart), Walmart of Spring Lake, and all of the volunteers and staff that assisted with this event.

To qualify for the shopping spree, participants had to be between the ages of 5-12, reside in Harnett County, were not eligible to receive any additional outside holiday assistance from other agencies, organizations, churches, etc. and must have had good cause as to why assistance was needed. “Our goal was to assist families who were looking for a hand up, not a hand out”, stated Ms. Williams. One the Sheriff’s stated, “This was a true blessing and this was my first time volunteering for this event but every year I will be participating”.

Ms. Williams stated, this was our biggest Shop with the Cop Event and we were able to put a lot smiles on people faces and next year we’ll be able to do more”. Harnett County PAL and 21st CCLC, administered by Think Smart Outreach Center, is a youth crime prevention program that utilizes free educational, athletic and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth.

Day at NFL



On Saturday, December 24,2011, our program hosted a Day at the NFL "Making a Difference in a Male's Life--Brotherhood Matters". This was a Christmas Eve that 15 Males will never forget and a bond they will have for a lifetime!

The purpose of the Male Mentoring program is to pair a young male with a positive adult male so they can show them how to become a MAN. The adult males were extremely excited about the opportunity to help a young man and the young males as well. One of the Adult Males stated, "He was so excited and I think he hugged me more than an hundred times on today". The adult last words to me after the event was "Thank you and Think Smart for all the hard work you do. This makes me want to do more...Today was a great day".

Exposure, memories, and having people love what they do is the key to any successful program!

From Our Family to Yours Merry Christmas and have a Prosperous New Year



Think Smart Hosted Youth Leadership Council Workshop



High School Groups

On Monday, December 12, 2011, our program along with two other 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Harnett County~~Save the Seed 21st CCLC and Dunn Pal 21st CCLC came together for the second time to do a Community Youth Leadership Workshop. This month Think Smart hosted the workshop. The workshop was held at the Harnett County Governmental Complex Building in Lillington.

The event consisted of games, teamwork activities, and discussion of what projects they would like to do for the community in 2012.

The purpose of the Youth Leadership Council is to empower youth and young professionals by promoting leadership development, civic engagement, and understanding while building awareness of issues facing youth and the Harnett County community.



Youth Leadership Middle School Group

What's going on at Think Smart???

(You can also check out our website at www.thinksmartoutreach.org under Upcoming Events for additional information)



Youth After school program meets Monday-Thursday from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.

High School After school program meets Monday-Thursday at our facility from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Pre-Collegiate Workshops (High School Students) meet the 1st Saturday of each month from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm and then attend trips as they become available.

Think Smart's High School Radio Station airs every Tuesday from 6:30 pm-7:00 pm at (347) 215-7093 or <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/undergroundteenchoice>

Kids Café- A hot dinner is prepared nightly at our facility.

Family Nights 1st Friday of each month

Parent Training Classes/Workshops the 1st Thursday and the 1st Saturday of the Month

Tutoring - Monday - Thursday from 5pm-7pm.

Mondays- Fitness Program and Youth Leadership

Tuesdays- Yearbook Committee, Mass Communications, Peer Mentoring, Student Activities Council, Pep Squad, Youth Ambassadors,

Wednesdays-Sewing Classes

Thursdays-Culinary Arts and Modeling Troupe

From the After school Corner



Both after program sites are still focusing on excelling and exposing students to new things. The students have been working extremely hard to meet the goals established on their individual academic plans. Everyone is focusing on math, reading, and technology. The staff is also helping the students with their homework and their other academic needs. We have implemented the Leapfrog Learning Consoles in the classrooms along with educational websites.

The after school program has incorporated classroom helpers, Star of the Week, Behavior Charts, and a treasure box. This is to assist with behavior management and having students take "ownership" of the after school program.

In the month of December, the students had various curriculums which consisted of: Etiquette, Art, and Technology.

Our after school site at Erwin Elementary is in a class of their own. The teachers are doing "out of the box" activities to keep the students engaged and to make their classrooms more comfy and cozy! The students are enjoying reading in the book corners, using their personal laptops and the computer lab for educational activities, and writing in their journals at the end of the day. The students also graduated and received certificates for completing the Zumba Class during the after school program.

Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood- Ms. Brittany



The Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood Program is doing an excellent job at our main site as well as at the Harnett Central High School Site. The young ladies discuss various topics but this month they were focused on the importance of maintaining healthy relationships. These relationships included parental, boyfriends, best friends, teachers, etc. This was a very sensitive issue but after the students broke the ice this became a very interesting topic.

The girls were also taught the importance of giving back this month. They volunteered at the Shop with a Cop Event and on December 17, 2011, they did a community service project at Harnett Manor Nursing Home. At Harnett Manor, they were paired with the residents of the facility as they participated in several activities and played board games. The residents really enjoyed themselves. The girls favorite was nail painting.



From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

Ms. Pam and Ms. Nell



Recruitment Fair--Show your College Spirit Panel

The Pre-Collegiate students did not have their regular Saturday Academy on December 3, 2011, because they volunteered at our Annual Shop with the Cop Event for their Community Service Project of the month.

However; on Friday, December 16, 2011, they had a workshop entitled "Recruitment Fair--Show your College Spirit". Some of the students that graduated from our program in June 2011 came back to the facility to speak to our current Pre-Collegiate Students about the college they attend and used this as a "recruitment tool" to get the students interested in their college as well as provide the students information from a college students' perspective.

The panel consisted of students currently enrolled at Spelman College, Morehouse College, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, East Carolina University and Fayetteville State University. Their words were great but just having our pre-collegiate students see students that graduated from our program, from Harnett County, and now in college and excited about college was awesome! They also learned that peer pressure doesn't have to always be negative. That night was some positive peer pressure!

From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director

Mr. Walter- Athletic Director



The Athletic Department and the Booster Club have been working extremely hard this month. We are so excited to have such great volunteers that uses their free time to help the program as well as serve as coaches, referees, implement fundraisers, and find sponsors to help for some of the cost of the equipment and supplies for each team. We would not have a great Athletic Program if it was not for these individuals.

On Thursday, December 29, 2011, we had a large community support base to come out at 6pm at Erwin Elementary School Gym to support our 15 and 18 year olds boys basketball teams as they matched their skills up with some "seasoned" gentlemen (our coaches, volunteers, alumni players, etc). in Our Annual Old Skool vs New Skool Pre-season opener. It was a GREAT event. The official season will begin on Saturday, 7, 2012.

Our Sponsors for 2011-2012 are J&J Repairs, JE Womble and Sons, Womble's Realty, Walker Memorial Funeral Home, and Kangaroo (The Pantry) headquarters, Advantage Properties, Annie's Nursing Service, R&W Rentals and Auto Sales, S&J of Raleigh, S. McNeill Trucking, Williams' Income Tax Services, and Jordan Temple Bible Church of God.

Thanks for your support! Doughnut Sale will be in January. Date TBA. The Athletic Department is still seeking donations to assist with other items and supplies that are needed in order to make this a successful year. If you would like to donate funds, please contact our office at 910-814-8762 no donation is too small.

Family Nights At Think Smart Family Game Night



Parents and Students Enjoying UNO

On Saturday, December 2, 2011, our program hosted our Family Game Night until 7:30. The event consisted of UNO, Xbox, Karaoke, Scattergories, Taboo, Air Hockey, Pool, food, and much more. The students and parents had a great time and at the end of the night was asking when was the next Family Game Night. It was a huge success!

Parent Advisory Board



On Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 6:00 pm, our Parent Advisory Board had a meeting at our facility. The purpose of the Parent Advisory Board is provide us with suggestions to provide better or more services to the youth and the families, help our program in reference to sustainability as well as be the "mouthpiece" for our organization with other parents.

They had a great meeting and the President Mrs. Penny McDougald and the other parents had some great ideas and also came up with some fundraisers to help the program in reference to our sustainability plan. We love our parents and their willingness to help!

Minority Business Expo



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. is hosting our 1st Annual Minority Business Expo on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Triton High School in Erwin from 12noon-3pm to showcase Minority Owned Businesses in Harnett & surrounding counties in observance of Black History Month. The expo will feature exhibitors, informational sessions on how to start your own business, grant writing tips, finding start up funds for new businesses, networking opportunities, and so much more. Admission is \$2.00.

Minority Business Owners wishing to exhibit (at no charge) during the event or purchase an 1/2 page ad (\$15) for the event program booklet, can contact Think Smart at 910-814-8762

Upcoming Events:

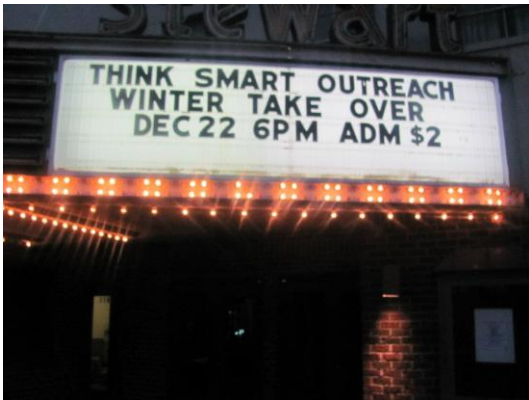


- Jan 2: After School Program Resumes**
- Jan 3: Parent Advisory Board Meeting**
- Jan 5: Family Involvement Activity 5:30pm**
- Jan 7: Pre-Collegiate Workshop and Parent Workshop (in different locations)**
- Jan 12: Winter Sports Picture Day**
- Jan 16: Closed for Dr. King Holiday**
- Jan 20: After School Field Trip**
- Jan 21: Pre-Collegiate Trip to FSU**
- Jan 24: Board of Director's Meeting**
- Jan 25: Thank you Mentor Day**
- Jan 26: Report Card Day**
- Jan 31: Program Award Night**

Think Smart in the Community/Events



After school students went to Disney on Ice for a field Trip on Friday, December 9, 2011



Our High School Modeling Troupe Show at Stewart Theater on December 22, 2011



Zumba at our Erwin Elementary Site

Where our aim is "Reaching for Success one star at a Time"



Newsletter Prepared by Ms. Pamela Williams

Chief Executive Director
Ms. Pamela Williams

Chief Financial Director
Ms. Nell Williams

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We were established on April 24, 2001. TEN Years and Still Growing Strong!! We would like to say a Special Thank You to our Wonderful Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, Grantors, Board Members, Students, Families, Partners, Harnett County, and everyone that helped us make this great a HUGE success. You complete the puzzle at Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st Century Community Learning Center.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

